

# We thought you'd like to know what was in the file you just sent your client.

. . . every comment and change ever typed into the document ■ macros ■ glossary settings ■ bookmarks ■ annotations ■ author and creator information ■ captions ■ the name of everyone who ever saved the document ■ every directory path ever used for saving the file ■ styles list ■ hidden text ■ all tracked changes ■ version info ■ hyperlinks ■ your grandmother's top secret cookie recipe ■ routing slip entries ■ document properties ■ company information hidden inside embedded and linked photos . . .

Millions of sensitive electronic documents pass through Los Alamos National Laboratory. The process of declassifying and eliminating sensitive content is entrusted to **File Scrub** and **File Scrub Trusted Copy**, unique software created at Los Alamos that scans electronic files to ensure removal of hidden and sensitive information.

**File Scrub Trusted Copy** is already used by many U.S. government agencies. Los Alamos is seeking to partner with a company to distribute and support **File Scrub** in the government and commercial sectors.

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**FILE SCRUB**  
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Invented here. Tested here. Licensed to industry.

**Licensable  
Technologies**

# File Scrub

## Features

- Detects hidden streams, embedded objects, and intelligent agent code
- Removes selected extraneous data, macros, and embedded object references
- Finds ASCII and Unicode words/phrases
- Generates robust review and trusted copy/transfer

## Benefits:

- Eliminates passing of proprietary information outside organizations
- Provides complete review for sensitive words and concepts
- Ensures released documents adhere to organizational security protocols

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Technology Transfer Division



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## Summary:

According to a 19 December 2005 article in *eWeek* magazine, the inadvertent release of proprietary corporate information and sensitive government data via electronic files ranks as one of the most significant threats to the information technology industries.<sup>1</sup> The *New York Times*, Multi-National Force-Iraq officials, the *Washington Post*, and the U.S. Department of Justice all recently inadvertently released sensitive information contained in electronic documents thought to have been cleaned and redacted of the sensitive information.

Electronic files, including word processing, spreadsheet, PDF, computer code and scripting files—virtually all binary files that store information for later retrieval and/or use—contain hidden information.

This hidden information is rarely apparent to users who are unaware the electronic files they release outside their organization contain all manner of data about the file (creation date, author, software version), as well as inserted comments, content changes, internal notes, deleted text, hidden image files, executable malware, and embedded objects.

Los Alamos National Laboratory has developed two software programs specifically designed to eliminate these threats. File Scrub and File Scrub Trusted Copy, developed and tested at Los Alamos, are now in use by thousands of government staff who are required by federal law to eliminate the threat caused by the inadvertent and deliberate release of classified and sensitive information. The software was originally developed in 1997.

In order to help fulfill its economic security mission, Los Alamos is now seeking a company with which to partner for the commercialization of File Scrub and File Scrub Trusted Copy software. The selected licensee will be provided all source code, development documents, branding, customer lists, and assistance by the Los Alamos development team to ensure that a successful version of the software can be launched.

## Development Stage:

The software is based on Multi-Platform Trusted Copy, version 6.0, has been tested, and is in use by U.S. government agencies.

**Intellectual Property Status:** Copyright protected

## Licensing Status

The Laboratory is seeking an industry-wide partner to help commercialize the product.

<sup>1</sup> "eWeek Labs Picks the Top Technology Flops of the Year," *eWeek*, December 19–26, 2005, p. 57.

[www.lanl.gov/filescrub](http://www.lanl.gov/filescrub)

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